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National
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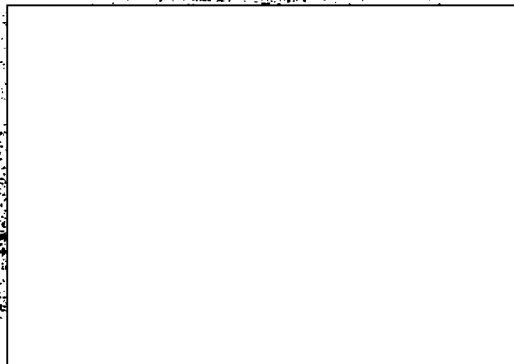
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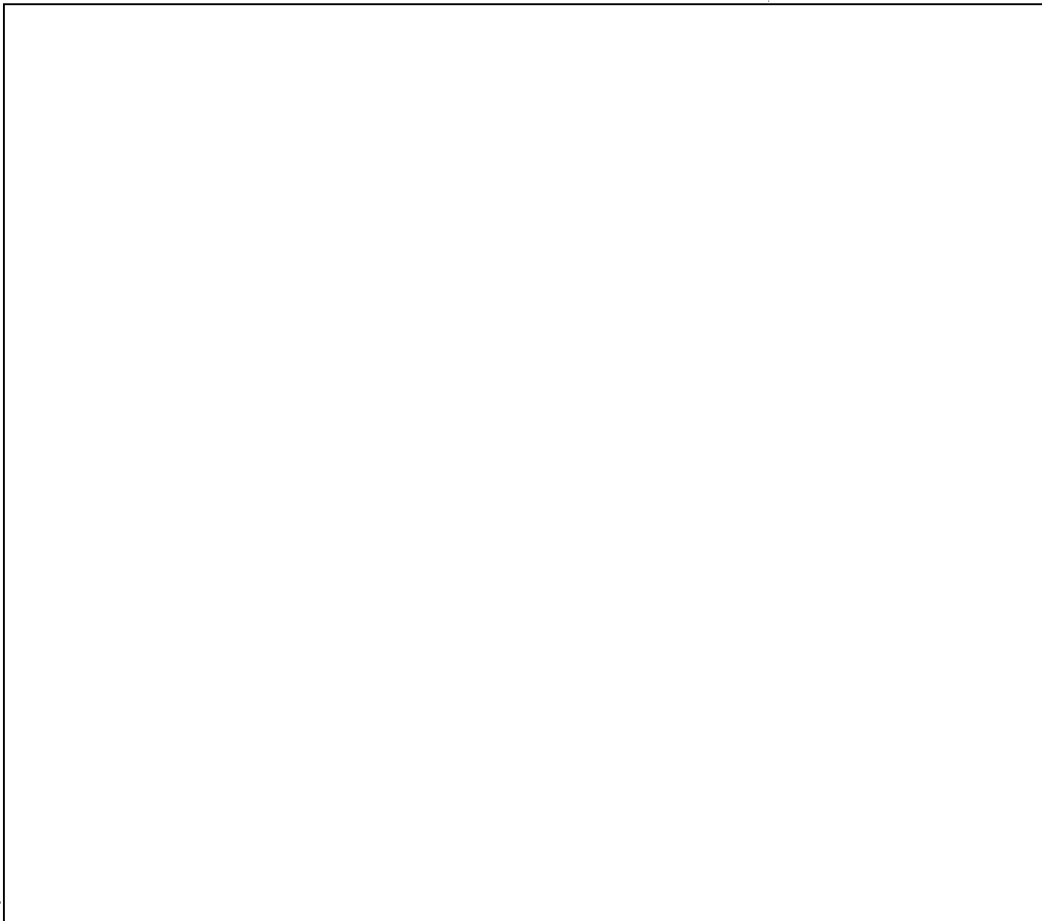
NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW (U)

15 May 1981

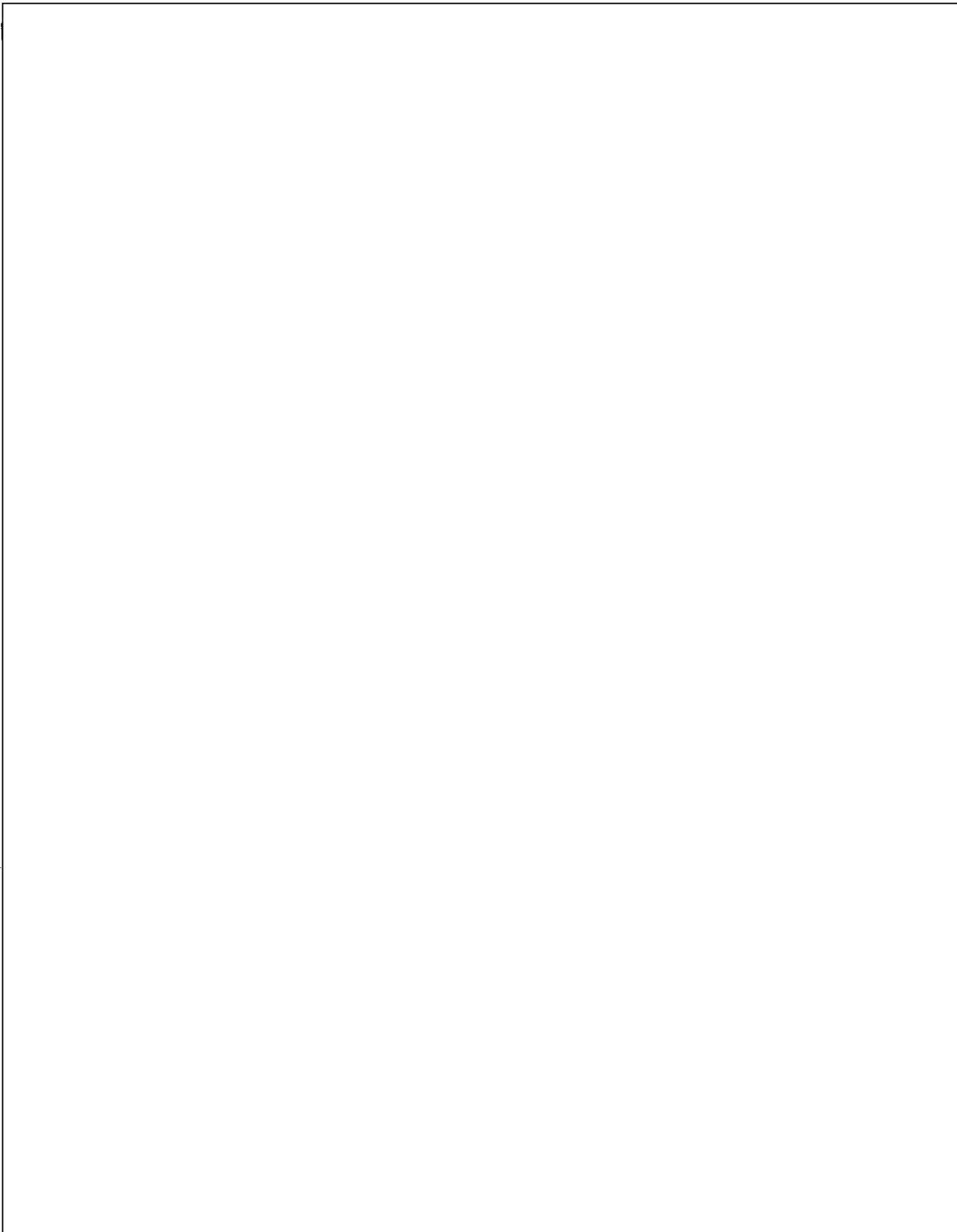
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Recent Soviet attempts to mend relations
with Baghdad are unlikely to win Iraqi
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IRAQ-USSR: SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS ONLY (U)

Recent Soviet attempts to mend relations with Baghdad are unlikely to win Iraqi gratitude. []

The rapid deterioration of Iraqi-Soviet ties since the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war has, however, been arrested. During the last several weeks, the Soviets have repaired key electric generating facilities at Nasiriyah, exchanged cordial messages with Baghdad on the anniversary of the friendship treaty, and signed new economic cooperation agreements with Iraq. More importantly, Moscow has partially lifted the arms embargo that has been in effect since the start of the Iran-Iraq war. []

Iraqi relations with Eastern Europe have also warmed. Key members of the Iraqi hierarchy, accompanied by Trade and Oil Ministry officials, have visited Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany, and Romania over the last two months. []

[] based on the composition of the Iraqi delegations, it is likely that discussions of bartering Iraqi oil for East European manufactured goods, including arms, were involved. Since the beginning of the war the East Europeans have delivered to Iraq about \$200-300 million in military supplies, including ammunition, spare parts, tanks, and artillery. []

No Reward for Moscow

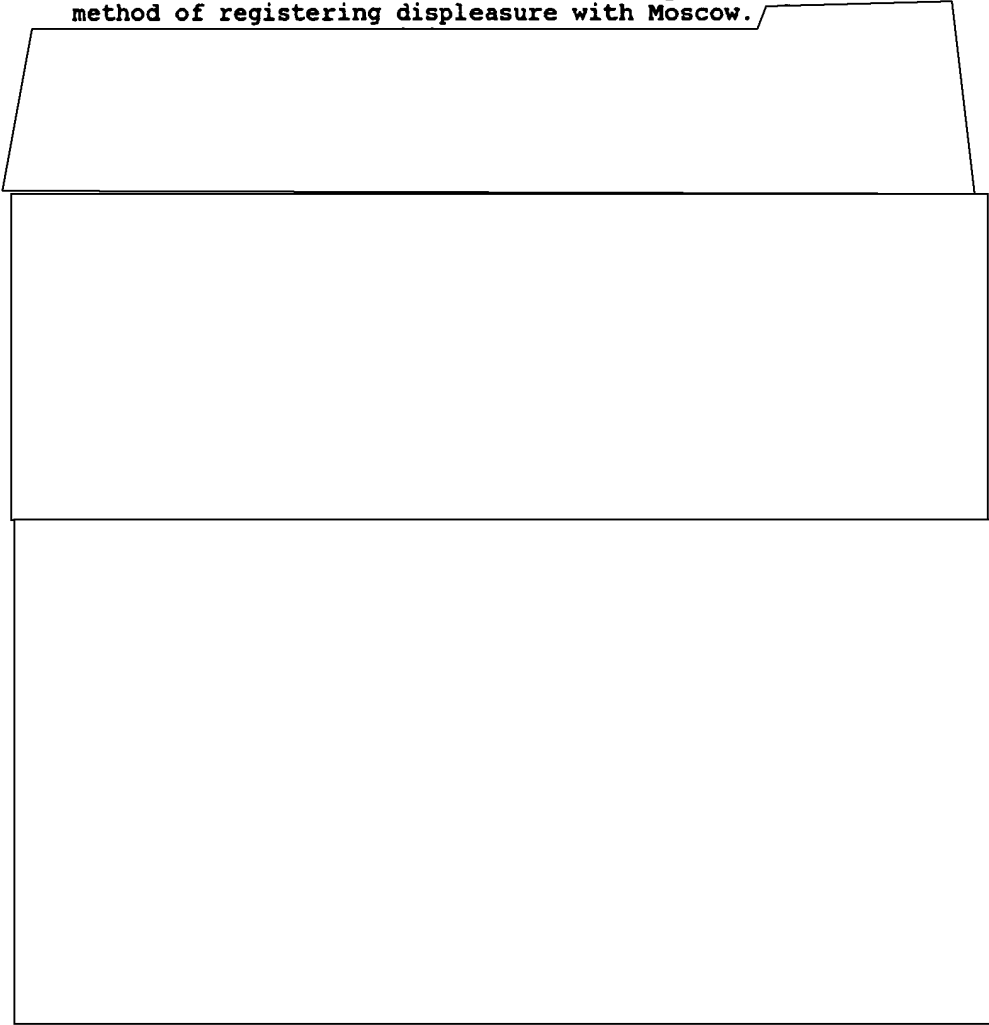
Soviet and East European activities are too little and too late to erase Iraqi anger. Iraqis continue to believe Moscow is primarily interested in improving its position in Iran. []

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Baghdad appears to be on the verge of another crack-down on the much harassed Communist Party, a Baathist method of registering displeasure with Moscow.



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